

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04053 211613Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7089

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD VIA POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF U.S.

USIA FOR IEE, IBS

REF: MOSCOW

1. POSITIVE COVERAGE OF U.S. PREDOMINATES IN SOVIET PRESS MARCH 21, BUT PRAVDA ADDS A SOUR NOTE WITH STORY ON REPRESSION OF PUERTO RICAN PATRIOTS STRIVING FOR INDEPENDENCE OF "THAT COUNTRY."

2. PRESIDENT'S HOUSTON REMARKS ON U.S.-SOVIET COOPERATION IN ME SETTLEMENT ARE PROMINENTLY REPORTED. TASS STORY PARAPHRASES PRESIDENT AS SAYING ME WAS ONE OF MAIN TOPICS DISCUSSED WITH BREZHNEV LAST YEAR AND, PRESIDENT HOPES, WILL BE AGAIN THIS YEAR. TASS DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION PRESIDENT'S EXPECTATION THAT TROOP REDUCTIONS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH BREZHNEV AT 1974 SUMMIT. ITEM REPORTS PRESIDENT'S
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DISSATISFACTION WITH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF U.S.

EUROPEAN RELATIONS AND QUOTES HIS STATEMENT ON UNDESIRABILITY OF WESTERN EUROPEAN SUMMIT IF ONE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE.

3. TASS INTERVIEW OF AMBASSADOR STOESSEL APPEARS IN PRAVDA AND OTHER CENTRAL PAPERS, WITH EXPANDED VERSION (INCLUDING PICTURE) IN NEW TIMES WHICH GOES ON SALE MARCH 22. BOTH VERSIONS INCLUDE AMBASSADOR'S EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT DEVELOPING CULTURAL EXCHANGES WILL PERMIT AMERICANS AND RUSSIANS TO HAVE MORE CONTACT, TRAVEL AND KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER.

4. BRIEF PRAVDA ITEM DESCRIBES TERROR CAMPAIGN IN PUERTO RICO AGAINST POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE "OF THAT COUNTRY." IT MENTIONS EXPLOSION INJURIES TO POLITICAL COMMISSION MEMBERS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES CARTOON WHICH MAKES POINT THAT U.S. YOUTH ARE INCREASINGLY DENIED COLLEGE EDUCATIONS BECAUSE OF RISING TUITION COSTS. SOVYETSKAYA ROSSIYA ADDS ITS BIT TO THE NEGATIVE COLUMN WITH A REPORT THAT THE FBI SURVEILS PROGRESSIVES IN U.S. BY WIRETAPPING, BREAKING INTO PRIVATE HOMES AND READING PRIVATE MAIL. NEW TIMES HAS BRIEF ITEM ON POLL INDICATIONS OF DECLINING PRESTIGE OF CONGRESS, WHICH IT ATTRIBUTES TO USE OF OFFICE FOR PERSONAL GAIN.

5. CRITICISM OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY INCLUDES PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON ALLEGED U.S. EFFORT TO GET SPAIN INTO NATO AND SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA TASS INTERVIEW WITH CANADIAN COMMUNIST EDITOR WHO BEWAILS PREDOMINANCE OF U.S. CAPITAL IN CANADA.
STOESSEL

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